

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 EB-07

SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00 COME-00 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5517

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US MISSION NATO 889

USEC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3325

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

BRUSSELS PLEASE PASS HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ARIAS SPEECH

REF: MADRID 3288

BEGIN SUMMARY: ARIAS ANNOUNCED IN TONIGHT'S SPEECH TIMETABLE

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FOR BASIC POLITICAL REFORM AS FOLLOWS: (A) SUBMISSION OF

ELECTORAL LAW TO CORTES BY JULY 15, (B) NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS OF BASIC LAWS IN OCTOBER, (C) PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN EARLY 1977, AND (D) PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD SO THAT THEY DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ARIAS PRAISED KING EXTENSIVELY, AND ALSO NOTED THE HE HIMSELF WOULD SERVE SPANISH PEOPLE AS LONG AS KING MAINTAINED HIS CONFIDENCE IN HIM. PARLIAMENTARY REFORM WOULD INVOLVE BICAMERAL SYSTEM WITH A CONGRESS ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL AND DIRECT SUFFRAGE AND A SENATE ELECTED ON CORPORATIVE BASIS. ARIAS PLEDGED GOVT TO MAINTAIN ORDER, ITS AUTHORITY AND ITS DETERMINATION NOT TO BE DUPED INTO TRYING TO CONSTRUCT A SYSTEM OF LIBERTIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THOSE SUCH AS THE COMMUNISTS WHO SEEK THEIR DESTRUCTION. HE ALSO PLEDGED FISCAL REFORM, RE-ACTIVATION OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. END SUMMARY.

1. PREMIERS'S OPENING WORDS REFERRED TO QUESTIONS AND RUMORS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ABOUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS THINKING, WHAT THE GOVT IS DOING, DISSENSION IN THE GOVT, CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE, EXHAUSTION, AND THE EXISTENCE OF "A GENERALIZED STATE OF ANXIETY" WHICH ARIAS SAID IS PROMOTED BY INTERESTED PARTIES. ARIAS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS INTENTION WAS TO REAFFIRM GOVT RESOLUTION IN THE FACE OF THIS SUBVERSION AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLES' DISQUIET.

2. ARIAS SAID THE "CATASTROPHIC FORECASTS" OF SOME DID NOT TAKE PLACE DURING THESE FIRST MONTHS OF THE TRANSITION AND UNCERTAINTY DIDN'T LAST LONG. THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE FUNCTIONED NORMALLY AND RECENT EVENTS HAVE SHOWED THAT THE MONARCHY HAS FOUND ITS PLACE IN SPAIN WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN FERVENT LOYALTY TO KING JUAN CARLOS I. ARIAS PAID EXTENSIVE TRIBUTE TO THE KING'S VIRTUES, IN PARTICULAR HIS PRUDENCE, HIS CAPACITY FOR WORK, AND HIS YOUTHFUL ENERGY. AT THE SAME TIME, ARIAS RECALLED THE NATION'S INDEBTEDNESS TO FRANCO, NOTING THAT THE UNINTERRUPTED NUMBER OF VISITORS TO FRANCO'S TOMB TESTIFY TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS WHICH ACCLAIMED THE KING IN CATALONIA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ANDALUCIA ARE PROOF OF THE PEOPLES SUPPORT FOR THE PATH TRACED BY THE KING. ARIAS DEFENDED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE MONARCHY SAYING THAT, AS PERSONIFIED IN JUAN CARLOS, IT IS THE STARTING POINT FOR A NEW PERIOD IN NATIONAL LIFE. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR A RUPTURE OR ANY TYPE OF CONSTITUENT CONVENTION.

3. ARIAS STATED HIS BELIEF IN THE ABSOLUTE

NECESSITY OF REFORM. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF PEACE, FREEDOM, UNITY, AND DEVELOPMENT HAVEN'T CHANGED BUT THE GOVT WANTS TO MAKE THEM EVEN MORE SECURE BY BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES PRUDENTLY AND AVOIDING IRREPARABLE MISTAKES. IN HIS CONCEPTION, CONTINUITY AND REFORM ARE COMPLIMENTARY CONCEPTS; ONE REFORMS WHAT ONE WANTS TO CONSERVE.

4. ON THE MANNER OF CARRYING OUT REFORMS, ARIAS DESCRIBED TWO PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED: (A) NATIONAL REFERENDUM FOR THOSE WHICH INVOLVE A MODIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS DEFINED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS, AND (B) NORMAL PROCEDURES THROUGH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS FOR THOSE REFORMS OF A LESSER LEVEL.

5. ARIAS THEN REVIEWED A NUMBER OF THE REFORMS ALREADY ADOPTED OR PROPOSED BY THE GOVT AS FOLLOWS: (A) A MODIFICATION OF THE LAW ON LOCAL GOVT SHORTENING THE TERMS OF LOCAL OFFICIALS SO THAT THEY COULD BE ELECTED UNDER A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, (B) THE REVISION OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW, (C) THE THREE DRAFT LAWS SUBMITTED TO THE CORTES ON POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, AND THE REVISION OF THE PENAL CODE. ARIAS THEN DESCRIBED THE NEW DRAFT LAWS WHICH WOULD REFORM THE LAW OF SUCCESSION AND LATER THE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM. THE LATTER WOULD PROVIDE FOR A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE CONSISTING OF A CONGRESS AND A SENATE. THE FORMER WOULD INCLUDE REPS OF FAMILIES ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL DIRECT SUFFRAGE AND SECRET BALLOT. EACH PROVINCE WOULD HAVE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF DEPUTIES WITH AN INCREMENT BASED PROPORTIONATELY ON ITS POPULATION. THE SENATE WOULD INHERIT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT BESIDES HAVING ITS "OWN COMPETENCE". ITS MEMBERS WOULD CONSIST OF THE PERMANENT COUNCILLORS (40 DESIGNATED BY FRANCO AND, SINCE HIS DEATH, ELECTED BY CO-OPTION), THE UNCLASSIFIED

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25 DESIGNATED BY THE KING, AND THE REAMINDER ELECTED ACCORDING TO THE CORPORATE SYSTEM PROVIDED IN THE LAWS.

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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A NEW ELECTORAL LAW WOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED AS PART OF THIS
NEW GROUP OF REFORMS. ARIAS ARGUED THAT THE PACE OF REFORM HAD,
INDEED NOT BEEN SLOW, AND EXPLAINED THE GOVT'S DECISION
NOT TO USE DECREE LAWS, WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE ONLY UNDERMINED
CONFIDENCE IN THE INSTITUTIONS AND THE PEOPLE.

6. ARIAS THEN ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING CALENDAR FOR REFORMS:

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(A) COMPLETION OF ALL PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED BILLS BY MAY 15;
(B) SUBMISSION OF AN ELECTORAL LAW TO THE CORTES BEFORE JULY 15,
(C) SUBMISSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REFORM LAW AND OTHERS
WHICH AFFECT FUNDAMENTAL LAWS TO THE PEOPLE BY REFERENDUM
IN OCTOBER, (D) THE CONVOKING OF PARILIAMENTARY

ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF 1976 TO BE HELD IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1977, (E) PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD BE SYNCHRONIZED SO THEY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

7. ON OTHER REFORMS ARIAS SAID HE TRUSTED THAT THE NATIONAL SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS, WOULD COME UP WITH PROPOSALS FOR REFORM. HE ALSO URGED THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE STUDY OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES, THE CANARY ISLANDS, AND CATALONIA, AND OTHERS IF THEY SO DESIRE, TO MAKE SIMILAR PERTINENT PROPOSALS FOR THE GOVT.

7. ARIAS REMINED SPANIARDS THAT "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ITS DEFEAT ON OUR SOIL." HE SAID THAT SPANIARDS WOULD NOT FALL INTO THE INGENUOUSNESS OF CONSTRUCTING A SYSTEM OF LIBERTIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THOSE WHO DENY AND SEEK THEIR DESTRUCTION. NOR WOULD THE GOVT BE DECEIVED BY COMMUNIST MANIFESTATIONS NOR DISORIENTED BY ITS "PACTS AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL ALLIANCES". IF EXTREMIST GROUPS, HOWEVER, DECIDED TO SOW CONFUSION AND BRING ABOUT VIOLENCE, THEN THE GOVT WOULD NOT VACILLATE IN TAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

9. TURNING TO THE LABOR FRONT, ARIAS SAID THE WORKERS THEMSELVES WERE THE FIRST VICTIMS IN "PAINFUL SITUATIONS" BROUGHT ABOUT BY OUTSIDE AGITATORS WHO RECEIVED "LARGE SUMS" FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE GOVT WOULD INSIST ON THE NECESSITY TO EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES OF DIALOGUE AND CONCILIATION IN SEEKING THE RESOLUTION OF LABOR/MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. STRIKES HAVE CAUSED THE LOSS OF 50 MILLION WORK HOURS IN TWO MONTHS, A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. THE GOVT WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO COPE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND BRING ABOUT A SUBSTANTIAL TAX REFORM. IN HIS VIEW, THE ECONOMY HAD ALREADY BOTTOMED OUT AND WAS EXPERIENCING SOME SIGNS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOVERY.

10. IN HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS ARIAS REITERATED GOVT'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND ITS OWN AUTHORITY. HE EXPRESSED HIS OWN THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE SPANISH PEOPLE PLEDGING THAT HE WOULD NOT FLINCH IN HIS SERVICE TO THEM AS LONG AS THE KING HONORS HIM WITH HIS CONFIDENCE.
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